Claims

1. A water based wellbore fluid comprising a fluid loss additive and a bridging material that are hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified or oil wettable.

2. A fluid according to claim 1, wherein said fluid loss additive is selected from hydrophobically modified starch, polyanionic cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydrophobically modified synthetic polymers e.g. poly-hydroxypropylmethacrylate.

3. A fluid according to claim 2 wherein said starch is a polymerised starch or a starch modified by hydroxymethylation, hydroxypropylation, by other hydroxyalkylations or by crosslinking reactions using agents such as phosphorous oxychloride, epichlohydrin, cyanuric chloride, formaldehyde or others.

4. A fluid according to claim 1, wherein said bridging solid is selected from hydrophobically modified inorganic salts, hydrophobic or hydrophobically modified inorganic or organic material.

5. A fluid according to claim 4, wherein said inorganic salts or inorganic material are selected among hydrophobically coated calcium carbonates, zinc carbonates, barium carbonates, hematite, ilmenite, magnesium oxide, barite, silica particles, clay particles, microspheres.

6. A fluid according to claim 5, wherein the hydrophobic coating is selected from fatty oils, fatty acid, fatty esters, carboxylated hydrophobic material or any surfactants that would generate a hydrophobic coating.

7. A fluid according to claim 1 wherein the bridging agent is a ground crystalline material of melting point over 80°C, preferably over 10°C which is readily soluble in produced hydrocarbons such as crude oil and lighter condensates and which exhibits a molecular weight of less than 1000, and preferably less than 650.

8. A fluid according to claim 7, wherein said bridging agent is selected from 1-S-endo-Borneol, camphor, beta carotene, lycophene, cholesterol, lanosterol, agnosterol.

9. Use of the wellbore fluid according to any of claims 1 to 8 as a drilling fluids.